

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069152

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. MUZOREWA'S PEACE PLAN PROVOKES STRONG NEGATIVE
REACTION

REACTION TO MUZOREWA'S MARCH 27 PEACE PLAN
HAS BEEN RAPID AND HARSH.

--SMITH SUPPORTED THE REFERENDUM CONCEPT IN PRINCIPLE
BUT TERMED THE PROVISION FOR UNIVERSAL PARTICIPATION
A "NON-STARTER."

--ZANU LEADER SITHOLE SAID A REFERENDUM UNDER PRESENT
CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE "MEANINGLESS AND IRRELEVANT"
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AND SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL ZIMBABWE HAD A ONE MAN,
ONE VOTE CONSTITUTION.
PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADER NKOMO CHARACTERIZED MUZOREWA
AS A "HARMLESS HUMPTY-DUMPTY" WHO COULD NEVER RAISE AN
ARMY TO OPPOSE BLACK NATIONALISTS. NKOMO ADDED THAT
ANY DEAL MUZOREWA MADE WITH SMITH WOULD BE A "SELL
OUT." (UNCLASSIFIED) LUSAKA 820, 817 AND 816, 3/28.)

2. BARRE GOVERNMENT RESIGNS

EMBASSY PARIS REPORTS THAT FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 28 THE DISSOLUTION OF THE PRESENT BARRE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, BARRE WAS ASKED TO REMAIN PRIME MINISTER AND TO FORM A NEW CABINET "FREE OF POLITICAL PARTIES." ACCORDING TO GISCARD, THE PRIMARY GOALS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE TO:

--CONTINUE THE PLAN OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY; AND

--FORMULATE A SOCIAL REFORM "ACTION PROGRAM" TO COUNTER THE COMMON PROGRAM OF THE LEFT.

GISCARD ALSO CONFIRMED THAT LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS WILL NOT BE HELD BEFORE MARCH 1978.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IN CALLING FOR BARRE TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT, GISCARD HAS ATTACHED HIMSELF TO THE COATTAILS OF HIS POPULAR AND RESPECTED PRIME MINISTER. THE NEW "FREE OF PARTIES" GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE GISCARD'S THEME OF REMAINING ABOVE THE POLITICAL BATTLE, THUS ALLOWING HIM TO SPEAK FOR ALL OF FRANCE. GISCARD'S ACTION IS A MAJOR GAMBLE IN THAT IT INSTITUTIONALIZES THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HIS POLITICAL BASE. IT ALSO LEAVES HIM WITH NO VISIBLE MEANS OF BUILDING A NEW CONSTITUENCY, EXCEPT INDIRECTLY THROUGH HIS PRIME MINISTER. WHETHER THE FRENCH WILL ACCEPT GISCARD'S PLAN REMAINS TO BE SEEN. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 9088, CONFIDENTIAL

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3/28.)

3. MAKARIOS BECOMING MORE FLEXIBLE

EMBASSY NICOSIA REPORTS IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS MADE A FUNDAMENTAL DECISION AFTER THE 1976 US ELECTIONS TO TURN AWAY FROM HIS HARDLINE POSITION AND TO SEEK, WITH US HELP, AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY ON THE BASIS OF A BIZONAL FEDERATION. TO DATE THE CHANGES IN HIS POSITION ARE SUBTLE AND GUARDED, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT MAKARIOS IS CONSIDERABLY MORE FLEXIBLE THAN BEFORE. THIS IS EVIDENCED BY A RECENT INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE:

ESTIMATED THAT PERHAPS ONLY 10 PERCENT OF THE GREEK CYPRIOT REFUGEES WOULD WISH TO RETURN TO THE TURKISH ZONE; AND

--SAID THAT THOSE WHO CHOSE NOT TO RETURN WOULD BE COMPENSATED.

THE EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT MAKARIOS IS PREPARING THE GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY FOR A BIZONAL FEDERATION GUARANTEEING THE RIGHTS OF FREE SETTLEMENT, FREE MOVEMENT AND OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY. (CONFIDENTIAL) NICOSIA 835, 3/28.)

4. DJIBOUTIANS STROKE SAUDIS

EMBASSY JIDDA REPORTS THAT A DELEGATION OF DJIBOUTI LEADERS VISITED SAUDI ARABIA MARCH 24-25 AFTER ATTENDING THE PARIS ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE ON DJIBOUTI INDEPENDENCE. ABDULLAH ARDIA OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE SOMALI COAST WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING:

--PRINCE SAUD'S VIEWS CONCERNING POLITICAL STABILITY IN DJIBOUTI WERE IDENTICAL WITH THOSE OF THE DELEGATION.

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--FRANCE HAD BEEN DRAGGING ITS HEELS ON INDEPENDENCE UNTIL GISCARD'S VISIT TO RIYADH.

--SAUDI AID HAS BEEN GREATER THAN THAT EXTENDED BY ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE FRENCH ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF DEFTLY SHIFTING A CHUNK OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AN INDEPENDENT DJIBOUTI ONTO SAUDI SHOULDERS. THE SAUDIS SEEM PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE BURDEN. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE COULD NOW TELL THE SAUDIS WE HAVE NAMED OUR CONSUL GENERAL TO DJIBOUTI AND HOPE TO HAVE HIM IN PLACE BEFORE THE END OF APRIL. IT MIGHT SPUR THE SAUDIS TO GET THEIR OWN MAN IN MORE QUICKLY. (CONFIDENTIAL) JIDDA 2352, 3/27.)
CHRISTOPHER

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